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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 99th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 15 April 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)
(Vice-President)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [111] (continued)
- Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia: report of the Fifth Committee [145] (continued)
- Emergency assistance to Cuba: draft resolution [154]
- Organization of work

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Kalpagé (Sri Lanka), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/47/870/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/47/870/Add.1, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that, since the issuance of his communication dated 19 January 1993, Haiti has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 145 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/47/734/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Jorge Osella of Argentina, to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee.

Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Spanish): I have the honour today of presenting to the General Asssembly part II of the Fifth Committee's report on agenda item 145, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia". This part of the report is contained in document A/47/734/Add.1.

As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report, the Fifth Committee considered this item at its 63rd and 64th meetings.

At the 64th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee introduced draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.37, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia". At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to amend paragraph 9 of the draft resolution by including in paragraph 9 the words "and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Also at the 64th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

As stated in paragraph 8 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution that has been submitted to it.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

(The President)

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/47/734/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/41 B).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 145.

AGENDA ITEM 154

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO CUBA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.55)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Belize to introduce draft resolution A/47/L.55.

Mr. ROGERS (Belize): I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly draft resolution A/47/L.55, entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba".

I should like to inform the Assembly that Togo and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have joined the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries in sponsoring this draft resolution.

I wish to call attention to three corrections to be made to the draft resolution.

First, in the third paragraph of the preamble, in the first line the words "and the people" should be inserted after the word "Government" and before the word "of". The phrase would then read: "Government and the people of Cuba".

Secondly, in operative paragraph 4, in the fourth line the words "and the people" should be inserted after the word "Government" and before the word "of". The phrase would then read: "Government and the people of Cuba".

Thirdly, in operative paragraph 5, in the second line the words "for the duration of the emergency and the ensuing rehabilitation process" should be inserted after the word "Cuba" and before the word "to". The phrase would then read: "support to Cuba for the duration of the emergency and the ensuing rehabilitation process to alleviate".

Under the draft resolution before us, the Assembly would take note of the loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure caused by the storm

(Mr. Rogers, Belize)

which hit Cuba on 12 and 13 March. The Assembly would acknowledge the efforts of the Government and people of Cuba to provide relief and assistance to the people of Cuba who are suffering as a result of the storm. It would further call upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations, to asasist in the rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Cuba, and would request the international community to provide emergency assistance to Cuba during this emergency period and in the rehabilitation process.

The group of Latin American and Caribbean countries has given its unanimous support to the draft resolution before the Assembly. We urge its adoption without delay, to bring relief to the people of Cuba during this period of emergency.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/47/L.55.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/47/L.55 was adopted (resolution 47/228).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Cuba, who wishes to make a statement in explanation of position.

Mr. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to express through you the gratitude of the people and the Government of the Republic of Cuba to Member States for their adoption of the draft resolution which, we hope, will make a decisive contribution to my country's efforts to overcome the effects of the storm that struck us from 12 to 15 March. I should also like through you to express very special gratitude to the countries members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for their having submitted this text for consideration during this resumed session.

Indeed, the storm - which some of the media have referred to as "the storm of the century" - struck my country during the night of 12 March and, as Member States have been informed, caused loss of life, many wounded and considerable damage, which preliminary reports assess at over $1 billion. The total and partial destruction of thousands of dwellings and of crops, both for export and essential domestic foodstuffs; the damage to industry, not only through the effect on the sugar crop, which was at one of its most important stages when the storm hit, but also through the destruction of many of the country's industrial centres; the effects on services through damage to hospitals, schools, communications and transport networks, together with many warehouses storing medical products and food in 8 of the the country's 14 provinces - all of this clearly shows that this storm not only had short-term effects but also caused damage with a direct impact on medium- and long-term economic prospects. This damage accordingly deserves much more sustained attention, because the resources and efforts necessary to reverse it will be considerable.

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

While we deeply regret the loss of five lives and the fact that 95 people were wounded, the rapid mobilization of the Cuban civil defence averted a larger number of victims of this meteorological incident, when winds reaching 200 kilometres per hour brought very high tides and 25-foot waves, causing serious flooding along the coasts and in the capital itself.

Once the storm was over, there began an intensive recovery phase throughout the country, in which all available resources were brought to bear to overcome the short-term effects of the situation resulting from the high winds and flooding, particularly for those who suffered the loss of homes and property from the storm, numbering in the tens of thousands. At the same time, the people mobilized in great numbers to try to salvage the largest possible amount of agricultural products from the damaged crops.

In the days immediately following the storm, international assistance also began to arrive as necessary support to the country's own efforts, which continue at this very moment with singular heroism on the part of our people as a whole. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those countries, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals who, from all over the world, have offered and continue to offer their assistance in solidarity with the people of Cuba in these difficult times.

The resolution that has just been adopted is one more demonstration of human solidarity and cooperation among nations, which should be the very foundation of this Organization's activities. This attitude encourages us to continue working more resolutely than ever before at the task of rebuilding the devastated areas of the country for the sake of the economic and social development and the well-being of the Cuban people. We are profoundly grateful to them and trust that the solidarity and cooperation set forth in

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

the resolution we have just adopted will continue to have tangible effects on our reversing the effects of this natural disaster.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 154?

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform representatives that the General Assembly will meet next Tuesday, 20 April, to consider agenda item 22, entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti".

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.